

MINUTES

**Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Study Task Force
Thursday July 9, 2009
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street**

I. CALL TO ORDER at 8:30 AM

Members Present: Chair Paul Paradis; Police Chief Nate Young; Secretary Anne Krieg; Fred Cook; Mary Opdyke; Greg Veilleux; Vice-Chair Chris Fogg; Harbormaster Charlie Phippen; Amy Powers; Greg Gordon;

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Young moved, with a second from Veilleux, to excuse George Seavey and Bob Bahr from the meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

III. MINUTES

The April 16, 2009 and May 7, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously by a motion from Opdyke with a second from Phippen

IV. Chris Fogg moved, with a second from Young, adopt the agenda as presented with the exception of adding an item titled election of officers as item V. All were in favor of the motion.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Young nominated the current slate of officer: Paul Paradis as chair, Chris Fogg as vice-chair, and Anne Krieg as secretary.

There were no other nominations.

The officers were elected unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Report from Paul Paradis on conversation with Bay Ferries representative.

Paradis reported that he called and left a message with Bay Ferries that described the nature of discussion. He has not received a call back, and will try calling again without leaving a detailed message.

B. Report from Paul Paradis on Council action on May 19, 2009 recommendations.

Paradis went over the recommendations the CSSTF made to Town Council on May 19, 2009 and Council action on the items.

Cook asked how the Task Force and its composition will proceed. Paradis informed the Task Force that he is working with the Town Manager to draft an enabling ordinance to create a standing cruise committee with a membership identical to the current task force.

C. Report from Chief Nate Young on 2009 cruise season implementation of operational changes.

Young's reported that there were no additional changes, reactions to new signage, and status of more signage.

Opdyke stated that the new taxi location is not tourist friendly, and identified problems.

Gordon believes that the distance is not the problem, but instead the problem is lack of signage informing people where to go. He described procedures by cruise ship staff, in which they stand in specific areas throughout the Pier to inform passengers where to go for various needs.

Gordon asked about money for operations, and how it is evaluated. Young stated that he is using two parking control officers that will take shifts managing/ watching the area.

D. Update from Anne Krieg on Recycling Bin project and maps

Krieg has not heard back on the application. She has the first draft of the walking maps, and will schedule a meeting with Opdyke and Bahr to look them over.

E. Update from Chris Fogg on information kiosk and signage

Fogg provided rendering of kiosk and identified its new location in Harborview Park. He stated that the colors will be determined by the Design Review Board at their July 23, 2009 meeting. The kiosk will remain in its location during the tourist season, and will only be open on days in which there are cruise ships. Signs will be stored in the structure at night.

The kiosk costs \$5,000 and is funded through Pier Development money from the "Kiosk and Signage" line item. The extra money will be used to purchase additional signage.

Gordon wants the Chamber of Commerce to test the new kiosk site before the kiosk is placed there for the remainder of the season. He also questioned whether Town Council approved the new location.

Fogg identified problems with the current location and benefits of the new location.

Krieg said she would check the record to see whether Council approved the new location.

Phippen questioned whether Parks and Recreation Department needs to look at the structure and its location.

Paradis suggested making a formal recommendation to Town Council regarding the kiosk, and sending it to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Young moved that the Cruise Ship Study Task Force recommend to Town Council that the Task Force has noted congestion at the current location in front of harbor place and that the kiosk structure and service will be better

suited at Harborview Park. The Task Force has also reviewed the structure. Veilleux seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Opdyke suggested that a cruise ship representative be at the kiosk as well. Gordon agreed. Fogg said that the Chamber would be happy to accommodate a cruise ship representative at the kiosk.

VII. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.

Ocean Properties representative explained their plans.

Task Force discussed the plan for pier customs facilities in relation to current and proposed practices by Customs.

Young specifically noted that Customs prefers to clear passengers aboard the ship. The stated, therefore, if Ocean Properties builds a Customs facility on the Pier, it does not mean that they will use it.

Powers identified a pilot program by Customs that eliminates ‘clearing’ American passengers at United States ports on closed-loop cruise ship itineraries.

B. Request of Town Council to make recommendations on operations for receiving Cruise Ship Tenders at Town’s pending T105 facility and for operations for managing bus tour operations for this facility.

The Task Force references Young’s memo to Town Council.

Fogg identified that the Task Force originally talked about the Pier as a safety net for accommodating cruise ships, but now it is being talked about as the primary means.

Powers clarifies the purpose of the Task Force and role of its members. She states that it is unfair for the Task Force to make a policy decision, and that the decision should be made by Town Council.

Young states that the Town Council needs to make a “yes” or “no” decision on whether tender operations resume at Town Facilities. If Council says “yes” and sends it back to the Task Force, it should request recommendations on uses and operations of the pier.

Phippen suggests that the fee structure is updated.

Opdyke inquires about the tender fee. Paradis clarifies the history of the tender fee and its difference from the anchor fee.

It is mentioned that the issue should be open for public comment at the Town Council meeting. The Task Force agrees.

Fogg asks for clarification on public comment v. public hearing. Paradis clarifies the difference.

Young moved that the Cruise Ship Study Task Force recommends that the Town Council clarify whether tender operations resume at Town facilities and

under what circumstances. Further, the CSSTF recommends that the fee structure should be updated prior to commencing tender operations to Town facilities and that the CSSTF is willing to do this analysis and make recommendations if the Council so wishes. The CSSTF also recommends that there be a provision for public comment at the Council meeting in which these items are discussed. Krieg seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Powers states that she is willing to provide a report to the Council on pier development in Canada and New England. She asks the Task Force if they would like her to prepare the report.

Paradis clarifies that, as a citizen, Powers can submit anything she wants to the Council, but she/it cannot represent the Task Force.

Krieg suggests that the report will be helpful to understand the market.

Opdyke supports the report.

Young moved to table the Town Council's request for the Task Force to make recommendations on operations for receiving Cruise Ship Tenders at Town's pending T105 facility and for operations for managing bus tour operations for this facility until the Task Force receives clarification from Town Council. Charlie Phippen seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

C. Resident Survey – possible recommendation on moving forward.

Krieg moved that the Cruise Ship Study Task Force recommends to Town Council that the Council work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a survey at the end of the 2009 cruise ship season, and that the Council tasks the Task Force to come up with the survey questions and a public outreach plan. The purpose of the survey is to gather public opinion on cruise ship operations in Bar Harbor. Fogg seconded the motion.

Opdyke asks about the scope of the audience for the survey. Krieg clarified the purpose of the survey.

Fogg asked why the Task Force wanted the information. Paradis stated that it is in the Destination Manifest Plan. Krieg noted recent operation changes, and the desire for feedback on the changes.

Gordon suggested the Task Force hold a public hearing to announce the survey results, and discuss additional operation changes.

Krieg agreed with the suggestion.

All were in favor of the motion.

D. Water Quality Testing

i. Review of Jane Disney's Report

ii. Future Recommendations

Paradis gave an introduction to this issue.

The Task Force discussed the results of the report, and potential actions for the Town.

Powers identified that the private cruise ship industry is already ahead of the Town in terms of environmental improvements, and that the Town is “trying to create an issue when there is not an issue.”

Phippen suggests randomly testing two ships a year.

Fogg moves to make Phippen’s suggestion a recommendation, and adds two non-ship control tests, with all four tests performed by the Harbormaster. The test is limited to water samples for specific things that originate on cruise ships and could be detrimental. Young seconds the motion.

Phippen questions the qualifications of the Harbormaster to perform the testing.

The Task Force discusses whether it is worth spending the money on testing.

For the purpose of knowing how the testing is done, Phippen offers to contact the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection to gain a better understanding of what the tests target.

Fogg withdraws his motion, Young seconds. There are no objections. The motion is withdrawn.

The issue is tabled.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Report from Paul Paradis on conversation with Bay Ferries representative.

Report from Paul Paradis on Council action on July 9, 2009 recommendations.

Update from Anne Krieg on Recycling Bin project and maps.

Update from Chris Fogg on information Kiosk and signage.

Water Quality Testing, and future recommendations.

X. SET NEXT MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE

August 20, 2009 at 8:30 AM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Krieg made a motion, with a second from Young, to adjourn at 10:00 AM. All were in favor of the motion.

These minutes were prepared by Planning Department Intern, Lauren Suerth, for review at the August 20, 2009 Cruise Ship Study Task Force Meeting.

Anne Krieg

Date

Cruise Ship Study Task Force Secretary